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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-03 INR-05

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND:OSM
APPROVED BY AF/C:RRSTRAND
AF/EPS:MR. DUNCAN
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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EXIMBANK, TREASURY, AID, OPIC
---------- 003522
O R 081945Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187937

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: GOZ INVITES IMF TO SEND MISSION FOR CONSULTATIONS

PASS COPIES TO EXIMBANK, TREASURY, AID, OPIC

1. RUSSO OF IMF AFRICA DEPARTMENT PHONED DEPTOFF AUG. 7 TO REPORT THAT FUND HAD JUST RECEIVED A CABLE FROM SAMBWA INFORMING IMF "ON BEHALF MY CHIEF OF STATE, THAT MOBUTU CONFIRMS EARLIER INVITATION TO IMF TO SEND MISSION TO ZAIRE LATE SEPT. "IN CONTEXT OF MID-TERM CONSULTATIONS." RUSSO READ MESSAGE QUICKLY IN FRENCH WITH APPARENT INTENTION LET DEPTOFF GET GIST WITHOUT TAKING DOWN TEXT VERBATIM. A FINAL SENTENCE, OF WHICH DEPTOFF MISSED EXACT LANGUAGE, NOTED THAT DINI HAD LED PREVIOUS MISSION AND SEEMED TO IMPLY HE WOULD BE WELCOME
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AGAIN. GIVEN RUSSO'S MANIFEST RELUCTANCE TO REPEAT

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TEXT, DEPTOFF DID NOT PRESS.

2. RUSSO SAID IMF WOULD BE CABLING ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION PROMPTLY AND WOULD ALSO PROPOSE SENDING SOMEONE TO CONSULT WITH GOZ INFORMALLY AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY DURING AFRICAN CENTRAL BANKERS' MEETING, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN KINSHASA AUGUST 18. CONSULTATION

WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN NOT BY FUND'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AT MEETING BUT BY SOMEONE ELSE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE ZAIRE SITUATION--PERHAPS DINI HIMSELF. THE MEETING WOULD NEVERTHELESS PROVIDE COVER FOR HIS PRESENCE IN KINSHASA. RUSSO ASKED THAT USG NOT MENTION THIS PROPOSAL TO BISENGIMANA BUT RATHER LET IT COME TO GOZ DIRECTLY FROM IMF. HE PROMISED KEEP DEPTOFF INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

3. RUSSO SAID IMF FELT PRE-MISSION INFORMAL CONSULTATION WOULD SERVE SEVERAL PURPOSES. IT WOULD PUT THE IMF DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH GOZ AND ALLOW THEM TO ASSESS ZAIRE'S INTENTIONS DIRECTLY, RATHER THAN THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES. IT WOULD HELP THEM BEGIN TO FILL THEIR KNOWLEDGE GAP ABOUT EVOLUTION OF ZAIRE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION SINCE THE MARCH MISSION. (WE HAVE PASSED ON INFORMALLY INFO ON BUDGET, BUT ABSENCE OF DATA ON NEW DEBT CREATION LEAVES PICTURE OF RESTRAINT PROGRAM INCOMPLETE). AND IF ZAIRE IS INDEED AIMING AT STANDBY, IT WOULD ACCELERATE PROCESS.

4. RUSSO SAW NO OBJECTION TO DEPTOFF INFORMING KEY BANKERS AND OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES OF IMF INTENTION TO ACCEPT GOZ INVITATION TO SEND MISSION LATE SEPT. AND TO SAYING THAT IMF ENVISAGES PRELIMINARY INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH GOZ MID-AUGUST (GIVING NO DETAILS). RUSSO CAUTIONED, AS HE HAS BEFORE, ABOUT OVERSELLING IMF MEDICINE OR UNDER-ESTIMATING MAGNITUDE OF ZAIRE'S PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: UPON THE FAIR ASSUMPTION THAT RUSSO SPEAKS FOR HIS COLLEAGUES, IT IS CLEAR THAT IMF STAFF WANTS USG CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE SIDELINES AS IT RESUMES ITS DIALOGUE WITH GOZ. NOW THAT MOVEMENT IS UNDERWAY, THIS SEEMS ENTIRELY REASONABLE. WHILE LATE DATE FOR MISSION IS DISAPPOINTING, INFORMAL PREPARATORY CONSULTATION SHOULD ACCELERATE NEGOTIATION OF STANDBY IF THIS IS WHERE FUND AND GOZ ARE HEADED. KNOWLEDGE THAT CONTACT MAY BEGIN IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS RATHER THAN IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS SHOULD ALSO BE HEARTENING TO BANKERS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT

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MOBUTU'S INTENTIONS REALLY ARE. WE ATTACH NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO FACT THAT INVITATION MAKES NO MENTION OF STANDBY; EVEN IF MOBUTU BENT ON NEGOTIATING STANDBY R DOUBT HE WOULD SAY SO PUBLICLY IN ADVANCE. AND WHATEVER HIS INTENTIONS, CASTING INVITATION AS "CONFIRMATION" CONTRIBUTES TO IMAGE OF CONSTANCY OF PURPOSE AND POLICY. IN FACT, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE HE DID NOT PROPOSE A FORMAL MID-TERM CONSULTATION MISSION IN SEPT. WHEN HE TALKED WITH DINI IN MARCH. KISSINGER

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